

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 HA-05 /070 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO:CMM  
APPROVED BY ARA:JBUSHNELL  
-----082429 180033Z /70

O R 172339Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PGOV, PINT, EC, PE

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES ECUADOREAN ACCESS  
TO THE AMAZON WITH ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. ON FEBRUARY 17, ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR YCAZA CALLED ON  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHNELL AT THE FORMER'S REQUEST  
TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT PERU'S "OVER-  
REACTION" TO ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA'S SPEECH OF  
FEBRUARY 9.

2. YCAZA BEGAN BY REVIEWING THE SITUATION AS SEEN FROM  
QUITO'S PERSPECTIVE: THE "SPIRIT OF WASHINGTON" OF PANAMA  
WEEK HELPED TO PROMOTE ECUADOREAN-PERUVIAN TALKS ABOUT  
THEIR BORDER DISPUTE. IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING  
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THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT EXCLUDE ANY PROBLEM. OTHER-  
WISE, THE GOE WOULD NEVER HAVE ENTERED SUCH DISCUSSIONS.  
THAT POINT WAS UNDERSTOOD BY THE GOP AS WELL, FOR BOTH THE  
ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAID SO PUBLICLY.

3. NOW, ACCORDING TO YCAZA, THERE IS A NEW PERUVIAN  
ATTITUDE IN THE WAKE OF THE UNFORTUNATE BORDER INCIDENTS

OF JANUARY. NOW THE GOP SAYS THAT THE SOLUTION TO THE BORDER DISPUTE LIES IN DEMARCATING THE BORDER UNDER THE "MOST UNFAIR RIO PROTOCOL THAT WAS FORCED ON ECUADOR."

THE NEW LINE BEING TAKEN, WHICH IS A DEFINITE CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE GOP.

4. YCAZA SAID THAT ECUADOR'S FOREIGN MINISTER HAS TRIED TO MAINTAIN A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS, PREFERRED NOT TO REPLY TO THE GOP BY COMMUNIQUE, BUT FELT OBLIGED TO MENTION IN HIS FEBRUARY 9 SPEECH THE RIGHTS OF ECUADOR AS A RIPARIAN NATION. NOW PERU HAS OVERREACTED, ACCORDING TO YCAZA, AND HAS THREATENED ECUADOR.

5. WHEN BUSHNELL ASKED HOW ECUADOR HAD BEEN THREATENED, YCAZA DREW FROM HIS POCKET WHAT PROBABLY WERE HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM QUITO, STUDIED THEM CAREFULLY, AND REPLIED THAT THE GOP HAD TOLD THE GOE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD NOT BE "PEACEFUL" UNLESS THERE WAS A SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER DISPUTE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE RIO PROTOCOL. SUCH A SETTLEMENT, SAID YCAZA, WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GOE, WHICH RECOGNIZED PERU'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS BUT BELIEVED THAT THE GOP HAD ACCEPTED ECUADOR'S AMAZONIAN RIGHTS SINCE THE TREATY OF 1829.

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6. BUSHNELL SAID THAT HE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THAT TREATY, BUT THAT THE USG POSITION WAS THE FOLLOWING: THE USG HAS BEEN WATCHING THE SITUATION AND HAS BEEN CONCERNED SINCE THE JANUARY BORDER INCIDENTS. THE USG HAS ALSO BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASINGLY PUBLIC NATURE OF THE DISPUTE. THEREFORE, THE DEPARTMENT HAS INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR IN LIMA AND ITS CHARGE IN QUITO TO URGE THE GOP AND THE GOE TO REDUCE THE DECIBEL LEVEL OF THE DISPUTE, AND TO GO BACK TO QUIET DIPLOMACY. THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS ALSO SAID TO ENCOURAGE NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO PERU OF ECUADOREAN ADMIRAL OLMEDO, FOR IF THE GOE WERE TO CANCEL THAT VISIT NOW, IT WOULD ONLY ADD TO THE PROBLEM. BUSHNELL NOTED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN IN A SIMILAR FASHION TO PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR GARCIA BEDOYA ON FEBRUARY 13.

7. BUSHNELL CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT THE USG VIEW WAS THAT THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE FOR THE USG TO PLAY IN RELATION TO FINDING A SPECIFIC SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE BORDER DISPUTE. FURTHERMORE, THE USG DID NOT WANT TO GET IN BETWEEN ECUADOR AND PERU. THEREFORE, PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE REST OF US HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING

THE GOE AND THE GOP TO SEEK A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. THE USG HOPES THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL DO SO, DESPITE THE FACT OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES, AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMMUNIQUE OR CANCELLATIONS OF VISITS.

8. BUSHNELL THEN ASKED FOR YCAZA'S VIEWS ON THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN ECUADOR. YCAZA REPLIED THAT MANY ECUADOREAN POLITICIANS HAD THOUGHT THAT THE GOE WOULD NEVER GET PAST THE JANUARY CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM, BUT THEY WERE WRONG. NOW THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE PREPARING FOR THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, THE GOE IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND THE RETURN-TO-DEMOCRACY PROCESS WILL BE CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY. (NOTE: HE MADE NO MENTION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE RUMORED IMMINENT DISQUALIFICATION OF CERTAIN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES).

9. BUSHNELL ASKED IF THE BORDER DISPUTE WITH PERU COULD BECOME AN ELECTION ISSUE. YCAZA SAID IT WOULD NOT BECAUSE THE WHOLE NATION SUPPORTED THE GOE'S POSITION.

10. BUSHNELL ASKED IF ECUADOREAN POLITICAL FACTIONALISM WOULD PREVENT ANY ONE CANDIDATE FROM WINNING THE PRESIDENCY ON THE FIRST ROUND (NOTE: AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF THE VOTES IS REQUIRED TO WIN). YCAZA SAID THAT IT WOULD.

11. BUSHNELL ASKED WHAT THE NORMAL ECUADOREAN TIMETABLE WAS FOR THE INAUGURATION OF A PRESIDENT AFTER AN ELECTION. YCAZA SAID THAT IT WAS USUALLY TWO TO THREE MONTHS, WHICH STILL MEANT THAT A NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE OFFICE THIS YEAR.

12. COMMENT: YCAZA STRESSED TO COUNTRY OFFICER ALLITTO BEFORE THE MEETING JUST HOW CONCERNED THE GOE WAS ABOUT THE CURRENT TENSION WITH PERU. YCAZA HIMSELF WAS THE MOST NERVOUS THAT ALLITTO HAD SEEN HIM IN THE 13 MONTHS THAT YCAZA HAS BEEN HERE, AND SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO FIND OUT WHAT, IF ANYTHING, THE USG WAS WILLING TO DO RIGHT NOW. VANCE

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